

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of October 28

### All School

#### **Miss the Coffee & Conversation Event? We Recorded It!**

If you weren't able to attend Coffee & Conversation/Cocktails & Conversation With the Head and Board this past Thursday, we've got good news! We recorded the session, and you can watch the video online via [this link](#).

#### **Dr. Staller Makes the Grade at Harvard University**

Congratulations to seventh-grade world history teacher Jared Staller, who presented his research paper at Harvard University this month. In his paper, "Complementarity and Composite Politics: An Historical Discourse of Powers in Kongo," Dr. Staller offers a new way of narrating the history of Kongo that is more authentically African and less tied to European notions of power and politics.

Whether he's teaching in the classroom or shaping global perspective on centuries-old research, Dr. Staller inspires a love of learning in all who cross his path. Well done!

#### **Sporting Clays Classic: What a Blast!**

Friday's fourth annual Sporting Clays Classic, presented by Gordy & Sons, was spectacular. Participants enjoyed the week's first glimpse of sunshine and crisp fall weather during our lighthearted clays competition. Led by 2018 event chair J.J. Oshins, vice chair Will Stacy, founding chair Clarke Anderson, and honorary chair Carol Lee Lyons, along with a stellar committee, this year's event was a resounding success. With sincere appreciation, we thank

all the participants, sponsors, and volunteers who made this year's event possible.

Keep an eye on your inbox—we'll be sending you information about the funds raised, the list of winners, and a link to our highly anticipated photo gallery soon. Until then, visit the [event website](#) for a complete list of participants and sponsors.

Funds benefit the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund, which supports cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment opportunities for St. Francis students who otherwise might not be able to participate.

### **Eighth-Grade Play Performances Are November 9 and 10**

The Middle School Theatre department is proud to present the eighth-grade fall play:

*I Never Saw Another Butterfly*  
by Celeste Raspanti



Over 15,000 Jewish children were sent by the Nazis to Theresienstadt, a former military camp, also known as Terezin. Tragically, only 100 children were still alive when the concentration camp was liberated at the end of World War II. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* tells the true story of the children of Terezin and one of the camp's survivors, Raja Englanderova. There were no butterflies at Terezin, of course, but for the children, butterflies became a symbol of defiance, making it possible for them to live on and play happily while waiting to be transported to Auschwitz. This play is based on Raja's memories and, although it depicts the horrors of the Holocaust, it also reminds us of the best of which the human heart is capable.

**Performances run Friday, November 9, and Saturday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus.**

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets online for a reserved seat. General admission tickets will be available at the door on show nights (cash only).

### **Have You Received Your Gala 2019 Invitation?**

By now, you should have received your invitation to THE party of the year! And who didn't love those styros passed out in carpool line this week?

Everyone is buzzing about this year's Gala. Find out what's in store and [get your tickets online here](#).

### **Dads' Club Breakfast Topic: Protect Your Child From Sex Traffickers**

Join the Dads' Club for a powerful presentation about child sex trafficking and "What's It Got to Do With You?" on **Thursday, November 1, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus. Debi Tengler of Arrow Child & Family Ministries will be speaking on the subject, which was at the top of the survey results for topics that SFES dads want to hear about. To RSVP for the breakfast, please [e-mail the Dads' Club](#).

### **Plan to Attend the Dads' Club Social on November 15**

Don't miss the upcoming Dads' Club Social, one of the club's most popular events! Join other St. Francis dads for good food, cold beverages, and great fellowship . . . not to mention the Rockets vs. Warriors game showing on multiple screens! The social will be held at **El Tiempo Cantina** (2605 S.

Gessner Rd.) on **Thursday, November 15, from 7:00-9:30 p.m.** Dads' Club will be providing food, and drinks will be available via a cash bar.

### **Next Wolf Wear Sale Is November 2**

The Athletics Booster Club's next Wolf Wear Sale will be held Friday, November 2. Visit us in the Concessions Stand near the gym on the Main Campus from 7:45-10:00 a.m.

Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Kara Montgomery](#).

### **A Cut Above: Pumpkin Carving Contest Is Tomorrow**

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade can get creative while they carve out some time to enter the St. Francis Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest on **Monday, October 29.**

- One entry per student is allowed.
- Kindergartners through eighth graders may carve and/or otherwise decorate their pumpkins. (Please, no parent work on student entries!)
- Best of Grade trophies will be awarded at each grade level, and an award will be given for Best of Show. Families may work together for the award in the Family Pumpkin category, and we will present a Spirit Award for the pumpkin that best embodies the spirit of St. Francis. Also, new this year is the Best TV Character Award.
- Drop-off in the People Place will begin at **7:30 a.m. on Monday, October 29.** An [entry form](#) must be attached for the pumpkin to be judged.
- If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail [Neekie Kashani](#) or [Rita Pace](#).

### **St. Francis Fund: Make Your Gift by November 1 for a Chance to Win!**

Each year, St. Francis Episcopal School asks each family to thoughtfully consider a gift to the St. Francis Fund. As this year's chairs, we are proud to continue this tradition and to support SFES.

The St. Francis Fund supports the school's general operating fund, which is crucial to providing resources for ongoing educational initiatives, competitive faculty salaries and benefits, and vital operating budget items.

**On November 2, one lucky family who has made a gift or pledge to the Fund will win a front-row parking space on the campus of their choice for a year!**

**PLUS, to make things even more fun, the grade level that reaches 100 percent participation first will receive a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy—and parents will also be invited!**

We ask that everyone join us by making a gift from the heart.

You may give online [HERE](#).

Thank you for supporting our amazing school!

Shelley and Doug Masterson  
2018-19 St. Francis Fund Chairs

### **Please Spread the Word! Upcoming Admissions Tours**

The Admissions Office is hosting upcoming tours for all four divisions. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

#### **PRIMARY SCHOOL TOURS**

Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

#### **LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS**

Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.

#### **UPPER SCHOOL TOURS**

Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.

Most Wednesdays from October through April at 9:00 a.m.

## **Check Lost and Found for Missing Items By November 1**

If your Lower or Middle School child is missing any items—clothing or otherwise—please be sure to check the Lost and Found area, which is **located next to the Crum Library entrance in the closet under the fourth- and fifth-grade stairs**. All items remaining in the Lost and Found on **Thursday, November 1**, will be sent to the uniform resale.

Please also be sure to label all St. Francis fleeces and sweatshirts, non-St. Francis clothing items, water bottles, and miscellaneous items! This makes it much easier to return your child's misplaced items.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ali Williams](#), lost and found coordinator.

## **Primary School**

### **From the Division Head**

In the Primary School we are always evaluating our practices. As we strive to improve our program and best serve our students, we look at our curriculum and all of the components that make up an appropriate learning environment for young children. Our teachers know what is necessary to help our students gain the most from their experiences each year. In our professional development meetings last year, our discussions often centered on one of the most valuable resources in schools: time.

As a Reggio-inspired program, we know that students need time in their classrooms to dig deeper into projects, work on developing relationships with their peers, and build connections between the content they are studying and the materials they are exploring. We also believe that when our teachers work together to integrate curriculum between our classrooms and our enrichment programs, the connection for children has deeper meaning.

In an effort to maximize the time our students have in the classroom and link our enrichment content, we made several changes to our class schedules this year.

Our students in Primary I and Primary II have two classes each week in the Spanish classroom and, once a week, Señora Schoelman joins students during their center rotations time to immerse students in Spanish in different

learning areas in the pod or classrooms. Conversations about their work with construction materials, dramatic play, or studio work deepen their understanding of the language through a natural approach.

Ms. Sweeney teaches each class once weekly in her classroom and also works with students during their rotations time. She helps enrich their skills with puppets, with dramatic play, and even with the storytelling dramatization that is an integral part of our literacy curriculum.

This immersion and integration of content in the students' environment reduces the number of transitions each week and allows them to remain in their classrooms, with two of our enrichment teachers going to the students.

We continue to look for ways to enhance our curriculum and expose students to enriching opportunities, but we also value our children's time in their classrooms and recognize that frequent transitions are not beneficial. We will evaluate our practices this year through conversations with our teachers and ongoing professional development. Our goal is to honor our students' needs and the mission of our program. We want to avoid overscheduling children during the school day, just as you are careful to provide a balance for your children outside of the Primary School

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA  
Head of Primary School

### **Join Us for Story Time on October 30**

Join Ms. McConnell, our Primary School librarian, for a fun story time. There will be a story, time to read with your child, and an opportunity to check out books.

- **Who:** Primary I and Primary II students and their parents
- **When:** Tuesday, October 30, 3:00-3:45 p.m.
- **Where:** Primary School Library

No RSVP required—we hope to see you there!

## **A Note From the PS Clinic About Screenings**

St. Francis will be offering vision and hearing screenings for Primary School students who turned 4 years old on or before September 1, 2018. Screenings will occur on **Monday, October 29, and Tuesday, October 30.**

Here's what you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses should bring them to school.
- We do not refer to the screening as a "test." Please help us by doing the same. The teachers will explain the process to our students, and they will discover that they are playing two games with the screeners.
- Screenings are non-diagnostic and not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie Toler [via e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6167.

## **Please Share the Word! Upcoming PS Admissions Tour**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Primary School Admissions Tour on **Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m!**

## **Primary School Dining Hall Menu**

To view the Primary School Dining Hall menu, please click [here](#).

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Tuesday, October 30**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *PI and PII Story Time: 3:00-3:45 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
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### **Wednesday, October 31**

- *PS Student Holiday*
  - *PS Parent/Teacher Conferences*
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### **Sunday, November 4**

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends: Fall back one hour*
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### **Monday, November 5**

- *PS Admissions Tour: 9:00-11:00 a.m.*
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### **Tuesday, November 6**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Step-Up to Lower School: Current PII parents are welcome to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus*
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### **Wednesday, November 7**

- *PS Individual Picture Makeups*
- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*

- *Chapel Dramatization: Hughes*
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### **Friday, November 9**

- *PS Red, White, and Blue Day*
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### **Monday, November 12**

- *People for Others Day*
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### **Tuesday, November 13**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Thanksgiving Feasts (Ferguson T/Th & PII): Students only*
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### **Wednesday, November 14**

- *Thanksgiving Feasts (Pre-Primary & PI): Students only*
  - *Book Fair*
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### **Thursday, November 15**

- *Admissions Application Deadline: PS only*
- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day (Ferguson T/Th & PII): 8:30-10:45 a.m.*
- *Book Fair*

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**Friday, November 16**

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day (Pre-Primary—Britton, Meriwether, Oteiza, & Ferguson M/W/F): 8:30-10:45 a.m.*
- *Book Fair*

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**Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23**

- *Thanksgiving Holidays*

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**Monday, November 26**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*

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**Tuesday, November 27**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*

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**Wednesday, November 28**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*

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**Thursday, November 29**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup*

## **Lower School**

### **From the Division Head**

I hope you are having a fantastic weekend! This week, I asked **Beth Guinn, our Lower School chair for People For Others Day**, to be our guest writer so you can learn about all the amazing activities in which your children will be participating. Please see her letter under "Important Details About People for Others Day," below. This will truly be an amazing experience for all!

I also want to thank all of the grade-level chairs who have worked tirelessly to organize all of these activities for us. If anyone asks you why you send your children to St. Francis or what's special about our school, this is a perfect example of what sets us apart. We all work seamlessly and cooperatively, with our children at the heart of all we do. Have a blessed week!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School

### **Important Details About People for Others Day**

Our annual day of service, People for Others Day, is right around the corner!

**This year, on Monday, November 12, our students will serve our community through several different activities and lessons built around three pillars: childhood cancer, early childhood literacy, and veterans.** Our People for Others team has been working diligently to create projects that will not only give back to our community, but also encourage our students to have visceral connection to the day of service, be aware of the needs in the community around us, and truly understand and comprehend why being people for others is important.

Throughout the day, each grade will participate in a variety of service-focused activities created specifically for each age group and geared toward their level of emotional maturity.

Everyone will begin the day with a grade-level presentation to discuss the purpose for this day of service and to introduce their activities and the beneficiaries of the service projects.

- Each grade will create something specific to accompany the books being collected during the book drive—whether it be designing a personalized bookmark, filling LEGO bags for STEM programs, or creating encouraging cards to be given to the mobile libraries of Making It Better and Houston Public Library’s Curiosity Cruiser.
- Our students will also participate in service projects focused on helping and honoring the local veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, as well as deployed troops across the world. We will discuss the honor, privileges, and sacrifices of military families, and how important it is for all of us to appreciate and be aware of the courage and commitment our troops. Each grade will create some form of gratitude either to be given locally or to be shipped overseas to bring uplifting messages and kind words to our women and men who are currently fighting or who have previously protected our country and freedom.
- Each grade will also participate in either writing heartfelt and encouraging cards OR creating activity bags to be given to families at the Ronald McDonald House and to young patients at Texas Children’s Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**Below is a brief description of each grade-level activity.**

## **KINDERGARTEN**

- Tour the Houston Public Library’s “Super Library on Wheels,” the Curiosity Cruiser.
- Decorate and fill bags of donated toiletries.
- Write thankful and upbeat cards to be given to our local veterans and their families at Texas Children’s Hospital.
- Design and create a personalized bookmark to accompany the donated books.

## **FIRST GRADE**

- Create a handmade “United We Stand” flag to be presented to the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.
- Write a heartfelt letter to be sent to our deployed troops.
- Create “Bags of Smiles” for the patients at Texas Children’s Hospital. (Assemble craft kits, and create a 10-page journal to include in the bag, along with some Play-Doh and crayons to encourage creativity while the patients are in the hospital.)
- Create LEGO gift bags for mobile libraries to give out to their participants.

## **SECOND GRADE**

- Create superhero capes to be presented to Texas Children’s Hospital for in-patient children.
- Create and personalize a bookmark to be donated along with the book-drive books.
- Write a letter of gratitude to a veteran, to be distributed at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.

## **THIRD GRADE**

- Count, sort, box, and label our collected books from the book drive.
- Create a “Thank You, Veterans” sign.
- Make “prayer bags” containing a short prayer along with a plastic army man. (The prayer bags will be distributed to every student in the Lower School to help remind our students to pray for the soldiers who are making great sacrifices to fight for our freedom and our country.)
- Make no-sew fleece blankets and write uplifting letters to be given to the patients and families at the Ronald McDonald House.

## **FOURTH GRADE**

- Facetime with Commander Michael G. Mercado, MD, of the US Navy.

- Package student-designed holiday cards and stamps to create a gift bag for in-patients at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, so they have cards to send to their own families.
- Write a letter of gratitude and encouragement to our deployed troops, veterans, and new recruits.
- Make no-sew fleece blankets and create handwritten notes for pediatric cancer patients at Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center.
- Assemble and decorate activity booklets designed by our students.
- Create a LEGO Character Creation Kit, which will be packaged and donated to the mobile libraries to be utilized in the STEM and STEAM programs they host in the community.

Although we call this People for Others Day, we feel it is valuable to teach our children to be givers and encourage them to help others as often as possible beyond just this one day.

We began our season of service in September, which is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, by hosting the first People for Others Spare Change Challenge. In just two weeks, the SFES community collectively accumulated over \$2,000 in change. The money collected will directly benefit the Candlelighters - Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, which will be presented with a check from our school in an upcoming Chapel service.

This month, we will be kicking off our two-week Gently Used Book Drive, collecting used books from our students and St. Francis community to be donated directly to the Curiosity Cruiser and Making It Better. Last year, we collected over 4,000 books during the two-week drive. This year, the bar is set high, and we know our community will pull together to collect a record-breaking number.

On People for Others Day, each Lower School grade will create something specific to accompany the books being collected during the book drive. This year, our collections will be given directly to two local nonprofit literacy programs:

- The Curiosity Cruiser is a mobile library providing free books and other educational programs to children in the Greater Houston area.
- Making It Better provides several different literacy programs to local communities and schools, including mentoring, after-school programming, and a mobile classroom providing early literacy programming to our youngest Houstonians.

### **People for Others Day LS Book Drive Starts Tomorrow**

**Donate your gently used books between Monday, October 29, and Friday, November 9.** There will be collection bins in the pods and/or classrooms for the next two weeks. We are collecting board books for babies, early readers and chapter books for elementary-aged students, and young adult novels for middle schoolers.

The 4,000+ books that SFES collected last year for Books Between Kids were sent out to many Houston communities after Harvey. Way to go, Wolves!

This year's book drive will benefit two local nonprofits: Making It Better and the Houston Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser. The Making It Better organization transforms communities by empowering children and families to build their literacy, leadership, and life skills. The Houston Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser seeks to improve the quality of life for Houston children by providing free books and a fun, safe library on wheels where they can learn and read with other children in the community.

As we approach the holidays, this is a great opportunity to work together as a SFES family, extend our love for reading and literacy into local communities, and reconnect with people in our neighborhood and around us as we go out, collect books, and be people for others.

### **Vision/Hearing Screening Information for LS and MS Parents**

St. Francis will be providing vision and hearing screening, plus the Texas Risk Assessment for Type 2 Diabetes in Children, this Monday through Wednesday, **October 29-31**, via state-certified screening providers.

### **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**

- The following students are required to receive the vision and hearing screening:
- All first-time entrants ages 4 and older
- ALL 4 year olds
- All kindergarteners
- All children in first, third, fifth, and seventh grades
- If your child wears glasses or contacts, please make sure they have them on the day of the screenings.

### **TYPE 2 DIABETES IN CHILDREN (ACANTHOSIS NIGRICANS OR AN) SCREENING**

- All children in first, third, fifth, and seventh grades are required to receive the AN screening.
- Please note that this is NOT a blood test. It is completely noninvasive.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. If your child has not passed a screening, results will either be left at the school or be mailed to the school with a referral form showing detailed results.
- The screenings are non-diagnostic and not intended to be equal alternatives to an in-depth examination by a licensed physician or specialist.
- If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact school nurse Nicki Newell at 713.458.6128.

### **Please Share the Word! Upcoming LS Admissions Tours**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Lower School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, October 29-Wednesday, October 31

- *Hearing & Vision Screenings:* Kindergarten, first grade, third grade, and new students
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### Monday, October 29-Friday, November 9

- *LS Book Drive for People for Others Day*
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### Monday, October 29

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 28-November 3 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *Lower and Middle School Individual Picture Makeup Day*
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### Tuesday, October 30

- *Kindergarten Words Their Way Parent Meeting:* 8:00 a.m. in the HBR
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### Wednesday, October 31

- *Dress Uniform Day*
  - All Saints' Eucharist: 8:05 a.m.
  - *All Saints' Parties*
-

## **Sunday, November 4**

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends:* Fall back one hour
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## **Monday, November 5**

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 4-10 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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## **Tuesday, November 6**

- *Admissions Step-Up to Lower School:* Current Primary School parents are welcome to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus
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## **Wednesday, November 7**

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
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## **Monday, November 12**

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 11-24 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *People for Others Day*
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## **Wednesday, November 14**

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day:* Kindergarten and fourth grade, 8:00-10:30 a.m.; first and third grades, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; second grade, 12:00-2:30 p.m.

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**Wednesday, November 14-Friday, November 16**

- *Book Fair:* In the FAC

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**Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*

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**Monday, November 26-Friday, November 30**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*

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**Monday, November 26**

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 25-December 1 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

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**Wednesday, November 28**

- *FAC Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
- *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR

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**Friday, November 30**

- *ERB Parent Meeting for Grade 3:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR

## **Middle School**

### **From the Division Head**

Happy Sunday, Middle School families! I hope this finds you all having a great weekend.

Thanks to the Parents Association for their generosity in feeding our faculty and staff with great food last Monday. Full teachers are happy teachers, so thank you, parents, for improving our quality of life, especially on a Monday!

Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches for a successful and hard-fought fall season! We honor our Wolves tomorrow—sixth-grade and JV teams at 3:00 p.m. and Varsity teams at 4:00 p.m. Winter sports begin on Tuesday, October 30, and we look forward to the change in season that will offer our kids new opportunities to showcase their skills.

Grades 5 and 7, as well as new students, will undergo hearing and vision screenings on Tuesday, October 30. Wednesday, October 31, will be a Eucharist, so don't forget to wear dress uniforms—dress shoes, too! Other than those items, it's a pretty regular week.

Regarding Mind, Brain, and Education science, I have included [this post](#) from educational researcher Carolina Kuepper-Tetzel about incorporating graphic organizers into the learning process—specifically, note-taking. Within the blog, there are embedded links and research that are interesting, as well. Whether your student incorporates graphic organizers into his or her notes or not, there is good evidence that supports their use. This is one of the many educational topics our teachers discuss and practice here at St. Francis.

I wish you all a wonderful week. It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

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## **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**

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- ALL 4 year olds
- All kindergarteners
- All children in first, third, fifth, and seventh grades
- If your child wears glasses or contacts, please make sure they have them on the day of the screenings.

## **TYPE 2 DIABETES IN CHILDREN (ACANTHOSIS NIGRICANS OR AN) SCREENING**

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- If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact school nurse Nicki Newell at 713.458.6128.

## **Dr. Staller Makes the Grade at Harvard University**

Congratulations to seventh-grade world history teacher Jared Staller, who presented his research paper at Harvard University this month. In his paper,

“Complementarity and Composite Politics: An Historical Discourse of Powers in Kongo,” Dr. Staller offers a new way of narrating the history of Kongo that is more authentically African and less tied to European notions of power and politics.

Whether he’s teaching in the classroom or shaping global perspective on centuries-old research, Dr. Staller inspires a love of learning in all who cross his path. Well done!

### **People for Others Day Is November 12**

Our Middle Schoolers will be participating in **People for Others Day on Monday, November 12**, and we need your help collecting items!

#### **FIFTH GRADE**

Our fifth graders will be working on Blessings in a Backpack, and we’re asking for your help collecting the following items:

- Ravioli/spaghetti (Pop tops preferred),
- Fruit cups of any kind,
- Mac and cheese boxes, and
- Boxed milk.

Our goal is to collect over 6,000 items to pack, so we need your support. Please place these items in the boxes in the fifth-grade classrooms.

#### **SIXTH GRADE**

Our sixth graders will be collecting items for Books Between Kids, and we need your help collecting new and gently used books that are appropriate for ages Pre-K through fifth grade—including storybooks, chapter books, leveled readers, children’s nonfiction books, toddler books, and Spanish or dual-language books (Pre-K through second grade only). Please place these items in the boxes in the sixth-grade classrooms.

## **SEVENTH GRADE**

Seventh graders will be collecting the following items:

- New or gently used books for children aged 2-4 years old—Bedard and Dawson
- New or gently used games for children aged 2-4 years old, such as Candy Land, Go Fish, Memory, and Twister—Kruger
- Toilet paper (four-pack)—Minotti
- Diaper wipes—Pruett
- Clorox wipes—Staller
- Paper towels (two-pack)—Traber

## **EIGHTH GRADE**

Eighth graders will be collecting work gloves to be used during their service day.

With questions, please e-mail [Elle Anderson](#).

### **Please Share the Word! Upcoming MS Admissions Tours**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Middle School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Monday, October 29**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
  - *Hearing and Vision Screening*
  - *MS Individual Makeup Picture Day: 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:45 a.m.*
  - *End-of-Fall-Season Honor the Wolves: Sixth grade & JV teams at 3:00 p.m.; Varsity team at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Campus gym, FAC, and classrooms*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 30**

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Hearing and Vision Screening*
  - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *Winter Athletics Season Begins: 2:35-4:30 p.m. in the Main Campus gym and on the fields*
- 

## **Wednesday, October 31**

- *Eucharist Schedule/Dress Uniform*
  - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *All Saints' Eucharist: 11:05-11:55 a.m. in the Chapel*
- 

## **Thursday, November 1**

- *All Saints' Day*
  - *Thursday Schedule/Regular Schedule*
  - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *MS Admissions Tour: 9:00-11:00 a.m.*
  - *Councils Meetings: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
- 

### **Friday, November 2**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*
  - *Fall Play/Technical Rehearsal: 2:30-9:00 p.m. in the FAC*
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### **Sunday, November 4**

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends: Fall back one hour*
- 

### **Monday, November 5-Thursday, November 8**

- *Turkey Bucks Ingathering*
- 

### **Monday, November 5**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Group Pictures for Grades 5, 6, & 8: During electives/rotation*

- *PSIA Testing: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the HBR*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal (Tech Run-through): 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
  - *Sign-Up Deadline for Second Trimester Electives*
- 

## **Tuesday, November 6**

- *Regular Uniform*
  - *Tuesday Schedule for Grades 5-7*
  - *Special Schedule for Grade 8*
  - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *Fall Play/Dress Rehearsal: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
  - *Step-Up to MS for LS parents: 8:15-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
  - *National Election Day: Vote!*
- 

## **Wednesday, November 7**

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
- *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal: 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*

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## **Thursday, November 8**

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Washington, DC, Trip Meeting (Parents Only): 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
- *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
- *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal: 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*

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## **Friday, November 9**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Veterans' Day Observed by MS*
- *Wolf Wear Sale: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place*
- *WEB Activity (Grade 5): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*
- *MS Fall Theatre Production: 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the FAC*
- *Eighth-Grade Transcript Request Form Due to Ms. Crummel*

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## **Saturday, November 10**

- *MS Fall Theatre Production: 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the FAC*
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## **Monday, November 12**

- *Special Schedule*: Dress according to grade-level activity
  - *Wolf Wear Sale*: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place
  - *People for Others Day*: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
  - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
- 

## **Tuesday, November 13**

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
  - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
- 

## **Wednesday, November 14**

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
  - *Book Fair (LS Day)*: Crum Library
- 

## **Thursday, November 15**

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *MS Grandparents and Grandfriends Day*: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the FAC

- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *Book Fair (MS Day): 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*
  - *MS/US Brown Bag Dance Series: 12:00 p.m. in the People Place*
- 

### **Friday, November 16**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *First Trimester Ends*
  - *ERB Mailout to Parents*
  - *NJHS Meeting Geo Bee Challenge: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
  - *Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*
- 

### **Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*
- 

### **Monday, November 26**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
  - *Second Trimester Begins*
  - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

## **Tuesday, November 27**

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
  - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *MS Admissions Tour: 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the HBR and Crum Library*
- 

## **Wednesday, November 28**

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
  - *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the HBR*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
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## **Thursday, November 29**

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *First Trimester Report Cards Go Online to Parents*
  - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
  - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
-

## Friday, November 30

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Deadline for Spring 2018 PE/Athletics Registration (Online)*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Drive Pickup: 8:30-11:00 a.m. in the People Place*

## Upper School

### **From the Division Head**

What a week! Congrats to the cast and crew of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” for two phenomenal performances this weekend. And, a huge thanks to Justin Doran, Krissy Richmond, and Kathy Elder for their patience with and dedication to the growth and learning of our students.

I hope you all received and had a chance to read the narrative comments that faculty prepared for your child/children. Next Wednesday, we’ll take a break from our regular schedule for student-led conferences. These are 20-minute sessions during which each student will have the opportunity to reflect on and speak about (1) her/his areas of strength and challenge across courses, (2) extracurricular involvement and navigating the transition into high school socially, and (3) one or two SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-focused, and Time-bound) goals for the rest of the trimester and also for the rest of the year.

Advisors have been working with their advisees to prepare for these conferences, and we look forward to having the opportunity to partner with parents in supporting our students to reach their goals. If you have not yet signed up for a conference, it’s not too late! Please sign up today by clicking the link for your child’s advisor below:

- [Mr. Doran or Dr. Henderson](#)
- [Mr. Zacaraev or Ms. Matzen](#)

In closing, below is a note from Ms. Flowers with information about the Upper School’s first dance:

*The students are excitedly making plans for their first Upper School dance. The Crum Gym will be transformed into an “Under the Sea” themed wonderland on Saturday, November 3, from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. They have chosen semi-formal attire for this posh affair (suits and party dresses). Students may invite guests from other ninth-grade high school classes, and guests must present signed St. Francis Outside Guest Permission Forms in order to attend. You can [download the permission slip here](#).*

Have a wonderful week!

Cara Henderson  
Head of Upper School

### **Please Share the Word! Upcoming US Admissions Tours**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Upper School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Most Wednesdays from October 10 to April 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, October 29**

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*

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#### **Tuesday, October 30**

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

### **Wednesday, October 31**

- *School Holiday*
  - *Welcome to the Den Parent Conferences*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

### **Thursday, November 1**

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

### **Friday, November 2**

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
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### **Monday, November 5**

- *Special Schedule/Uniform TBD*
  - *Science Field Trip to Galveston*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

## **Tuesday, November 6**

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

## **Wednesday, November 7**

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Individual Student Picture Retakes*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

## **Thursday, November 8**

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

## **Friday, November 9**

- *Day 5 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- *Girls Basketball vs. Frassati: 4:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
- *Boys Basketball vs. Frassati: 5:45 p.m. in the Crum Gym*

## **Church**

### **'The Meaning of Marriage' Continues Today**

Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean “until death do us part,” but merely “for as long as my needs are being met”; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

**According to the Bible, though, these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about.**

In this six-session, video-based Bible study, Timothy and Kathy Keller—who have been married for 40 years—draw **a profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture** that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution, but points us back to the relationship between God and man. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful.

**This study is for everyone, whether you are single, considering marriage, a newlywed, or part of a couple that's been married a long time!**

Sessions will be held at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** on two Sundays per month from September through November. Remaining topics include:

- “Singleness: Strengthening the Spiritual Family” (October 28)
- “Sex: The Act of Covenant Renewal” (November 11)
- “Hope: Seeing the Great Horizon” (November 18)

**[View the Facebook event page here.](#)**

### **Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for November 10**

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room. This will be a time to consider whom you need to forgive, and to work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” —C.S. Lewis

Please RSVP to Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 713.782.1270 if you plan to attend.

### **Veterans' Day Recognition**

On **Sunday, November 11**, we will honor and celebrate our veterans, giving thanks for all who have served honorably in the U.S. military. If you have an additional name to add to the Veterans' Day publication we produce annually, please e-mail [Kathryn Adkins](#) with the name and rank of the person to be listed by Monday, November 5.

### **Join Us for St. Francis 101**

Join Father Bates on **Sunday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room** for St. Francis 101. This is a great opportunity for new or prospective members to get to know St. Francis Episcopal Church and Father Bates as he gives an overview of our mission, ministry, and programs.

You can RSVP to [Kathryn Adkins](#), or just stop in, and we'll happily welcome you! The Bride's Room is located in the Narthex of the Church.

### **St. Francis Sports Association: Registration Now Open**

Registration is now open for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball. Please note that basketball registration will close on **Tuesday, November 27**, with our coaches' meeting and draft on **Saturday, December 1**.

- **For more information** about our league, [click here](#).
- If you would like **to register**, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

We look forward to another great season and have added clinics for every sport!